

What is claimed is:

1. A device for binding paper, sheets of material, cloth, etc., comprising:
  - 5 a rigid frame including a base surface;
  - a first lip formed on the rigid frame;
  - a second lip formed on the rigid frame, the second lip including a first set of teeth and a first gap in the first set of teeth; and
  - 10 a flexible arcuate spring member having first and second ends, the spring member including a second set of teeth formed at the second end of the spring member and a second gap formed in the second set of teeth,wherein the first end of the spring member is attached to  
15 the first lip, and the spring member is placed in a closed position by maneuvering the spring member to guide one of the teeth in the second set through the first gap and to align the second set of teeth with the first set of teeth, respectively.
- 20 2. The device of claim 1, wherein the first end of the spring member is rotatably attached to the first lip, and can rotate about an axis substantially perpendicular to the base surface of the rigid frame.
- 25 3. The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible arcuate spring member is integrated with the first lip of the rigid

frame.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible arcuate  
spring member is detachable from, and reattachable to, the  
5 rigid frame.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible arcuate  
spring member includes at least one recess formed thereon for  
holding nonplanar objects.

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6. The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible arcuate  
spring member includes a hinge positioned between the first end  
of the spring member and the second end of the spring member,  
and can be rotated about an axis parallel to the base surface.

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7. The device of claim 1, further comprising a cover  
element attached to the rigid frame.

8. The device of claim 1, further comprising at least one  
20 retaining ridge formed at or near an exterior edge of the first  
lip or the second lip.

9. A material holding apparatus, comprising:  
a rigid frame including a base surface;  
25 a first lip formed on the rigid frame;  
a second lip formed on the rigid frame, the second lip

including a first set of teeth and a first gap in the first set of teeth;

a flexible arcuate spring member having first and second ends, the spring member including a second set of teeth formed at the second end and a second gap formed in the second set of teeth; and

at least one adjustable spacer block,

wherein the first end of the spring member is attached to the first lip, and the spring member is placed in a closed position by guiding the spring member to maneuver one of the teeth in the second set through the first gap, and to align the second set of teeth with the first set of teeth,

the at least one adjustable spacer block is positioned on the spring member, and

material is held between the at least one adjustable spacer block and the base surface when the spring member is in the closed position.

10. The material holding apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first end of the spring member is rotatably attached to the first lip, and can rotate about an axis substantially perpendicular to the base surface of the rigid frame.

11. The paper holding apparatus of claim 9, wherein the flexible arcuate spring member is integrated with the first lip of the rigid frame.

12. The material holding apparatus of claim 9, wherein the flexible arcuate spring member is detachable from, and reattachable to, the rigid frame.

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13. The material holding apparatus of claim 9, wherein the flexible arcuate spring member includes at least one recess formed thereon for holding nonplanar objects.

10 14. The material holding apparatus of claim 9, wherein the flexible arcuate spring member includes a hinge positioned between the first end of the spring member and the second end of the spring member, and can be rotated about an axis parallel to the base surface.

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15. The material holding apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a cover element attached to the rigid frame.

16. The material holding apparatus of claim 9, further  
20 comprising at least one retaining ridge formed at or near an exterior edge of the first lip or the second lip.

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